



LEIGH CENTURIONS SQUAD

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3	IAIN THORNLEY	AB SUNDECKS	1384
4	JUNIOR SA'U	IMPACT INSURANCE	1490
5	ADAM HIGSON	PPS DESIGN & BUILD	1310
6	BEN REYNOLDS (JOINT V/C)	STRUKTURA ENGINEERING	1398
7	JARROD SAMMUT	LEIGH ARMS	HN AWAITED
8	NATHAN MASON	ZAUN GROUP	1443
9	LIAM HOOD (JOINT V/C)	CATON LLOYD AUDIO VISUAL SOLUTIONS	1410
10	MARK IOANE	HYDRAMED	HN AWAITED
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12	ANDY THORNLEY	LISA	1344
13	DANNY ADDY (CAPTAIN)	CHASSIS & CAB	1496
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	JOHN DUFFY	ASCOT SERVICES	1174
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OFFICIALS

Referee: M. Mannifield
Reserve Referee: R. Cox
Touch Judges: J. McMullen, A. Martin
Match Commissioner: D. Campbell
Time Keeper: P. Taberner

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MATCHBALL SPONSOR



SHEFFIELD EAGLES SQUAD

COACH: MARK ASTON

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2	ROB WORRINCY
3	MENZIE YERE
4	JAMES GLOVER
5	RYAN MILLAR
6	COREY MAKELIM
7	ANTHONY THACKERAY
8	SCOTT WHEELDON
9	JAMES DAVEY
10	MATT JAMES
11	BRAD KNOWLES
12	JOEL FARRELL
13	AARON BROWN
14	GREG BURNS
15	OLLY DAVIES
16	ROBBIE WARD
17	FRANKIE MARIANO
18	CONNOR BOWER
19	ZACK MCCOMB
20	BLAKE BROADBENT
21	PADDY BURNS
22	RORY DIXON
23	LEWIS TAYLOR
24	IZAAC FARRELL

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YORK CITY KNIGHTS

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Kick off 3pm
Leigh Sports Village



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LEYTHERS

FROM THE TOP

WELCOME TO LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP GAME AGAINST SHEFFIELD EAGLES.



MIKE
LATHAM

As I pen these notes on a rainy Monday evening reflecting on the win at Dewsbury, it's great to be back in competitive action after what seems like a long off-season and I know all the players and staff are eagerly looking forward to the game.

The Warm-Up victory over Wigan was a good occasion and we saw a hard, physical contest that was scoreless at half-time before second half tries by Alex Gerrard and Jordan Thompson gave us a hard-earned but valuable win. Matty Wildie was a deserved choice as Man of the Match and won the prestigious Arthur Thomas Memorial Trophy to mark the occasion.

Matty spoke with real pride and humility afterwards in Premier Club and said that Arthur's legacy had been mentioned by the coaching staff and senior players in the build-up to the game. It was pleasing to see members of Arthur's family come to the game as guests of the club and they are always welcome.

Matty is one of several new players to join the club for the season and has fitted in extremely well, as they all have. The pre-season events incorporating the squad were very successful and helped integrate the newcomers into the Leigh community.

The pre-Christmas Meet the New Players evening was attended, at short notice, by 170 fans and they enjoyed hearing the views and opinions of Danny Addy, the new captain, Ben Hellewell, Nick Glohe, Mark Ioane, and Jarrod Sammut.

More recently we had a very successful Sponsors Evening and official team photoshoot at the stadium which was again well attended. The support and loyalty of our existing sponsors and the introduction of new sponsors, eager to get involved with the club, has been really heart-warming and all the kit and player sponsors that spoke at the evening had a common passion for helping the club, the community and their own businesses prosper in partnership.

My fellow director, Steve Hill and his company Hilltop Products are again main shirt sponsors, a simply amazing and valued investment. Steve's a brilliant bloke, and his passion for Leigh, matched by his family, is unquenchable. I'm sure you'll agree that our home and away kits look simply sensational. We thank Kukri, our kit suppliers for their continued support. Gillian and Clive from our Retail Outlet tell me that demand for both has been great, and that the release of the away shirt early in the New Year was especially well received.

Steve and Jason Huyton, our commercial director, are inspirational people to work alongside and Aaron Adams, who I mention elsewhere is a great addition to the board, all of whom give their time voluntarily for the club they love. I know it's something Derek really appreciates and values. I think it's fair to say that Aaron has had his eyes opened since coming on board about the amount of work and dedication displayed by board members, driven by the acumen, ambition and investment of Derek.

Underpinning that is a great core of committed staff and volunteers and a loyal and passionate commercial and

supporter base. We all join together in a common cause, we all love Leigh Centurions and our town. The hashtag #leythers, used throughout 2020 by our media team sums it up.

We then hosted a successful breakfast on the Saturday before the Wigan game when a host of past players, ranging from Tommy Warburton and Rod Tickle from the 1960s to more recent stars like Dave Bradbury and Neil Turley explained what playing for Leigh meant to them before each current player was presented with his 2020 shirt by a player from the past. Micky Higham, the outgoing captain closed the event by presenting the number 13 shirt to the new captain, Danny Addy, who explained he'd been left in no doubt what playing for Leigh meant and how honoured he was to have been handed the captaincy, with Liam Hood and Ben Reynolds as his vice-captains.

The coaching staff and players have been in intense preseason training since November, ranging from skills sessions around the Sports Village, strength and conditioning sessions both here and at Micky Higham's gym, some arduous endurance running in the hills around Rivington and an SAS army camp to blow away the Christmas cobwebs.

Through it all the staff and players have shown great professionalism and resolve and it's evident from spending time with them just what a tight, close-knit group they are, united in a common aim, to help Leigh Centurions enjoy a successful season.

Off the field, as I mentioned, the directors and staff have worked hard on all the many tasks that are required to make the club both function and successful and Aaron Adams has already become a highly valuable new member of the operational board, enjoying his new role with the club he's supported since childhood.

WHO'S WHO AT LEIGH CENTURIONS



Owner

Mr Derek Beaumont
Operational Board Of Directors
 Mr Michael Latham (Chairman)
 Mr Jason Huyton
 Mr Steve Hill
 Mr Aaron Adams
Honorary Life President
 Mr Brian Bowman
Honorary Vice President
 Mr Andy Burnham
General Manager
 Mr Neil Jukes

Life Members

Mr Tommy Coleman
 Dr Morris Doublet-Stewart
 Mr Michael Latham
 Mr John Massey
 Mr Steve Openshaw
 Mr Fred Parkinson
 Mr Allan Rowley
 Mr Frank Taylor
 Mr John Woods

Head Coach

Mr John Duffy
Team Manager/
Assistant Kit Manager
 Mr Sean Fairhurst
Assistant Coaches

Mr Paul Anderson
 Mr Micky Higham
 (Strength & Conditioning)
 Mr Jason Duffy

Sports Rehabilitation

Mr Rob Stewart
Kit Managers
 Mr Frank Taylor - kit manager
Statistician
 Mr Cliff Sumner

Digital Media Manager:
 Mr Mark Taylor

Social Media Manager
 Mr Darren Lilly

Retail Outlet Manager
 Ms Gillian Jolley

IT Manager

Mr Andrew Parkinson
Club Ambassador
 Mr Alex Murphy OBE

SuperLeigh (Hilton Park Society)

Manager

Ms Christine Brown
Assistant Manager
 Mr Jonathan Simpkin
Co-Ordinator
 Mr Paul Robinson

Leigh Community Trust

Programmes Director:

Ms Hannah Forbes
Community & Schools Liaison Manager:
 Ms Heather Parker-Preece

Youth Health and Inclusion Officers:

Mr Mick Nanyin; Mr Michael Ostick
Men's Health Officer:
 Mr Steve Maden

Lead S.E.N Officer:

Ms Carlie Unsworth

S.E.N Officer:

Mr TJ Richardson

Veterans and Men's Health Officer:

Mr Dave Drury

Veterans Officer:

Mr Grant Lane

Dance Practitioner:

Ms Michelle Mahony

Leigh Sports Village

Chief Executive Officer:

Mr Simon Toon

Operations Director:

Mr James Ditchfield

Safety Officer:

Ms Sue Kilroy

Catering Manager:

Mr Gareth Hardcastle

Finance Director:

Annmarie Kearsley

HONOURS

Winter era (1895-96 to 1995-96)

Championship Winners:

1905-06, 1981-82

Division Two Champions:

1977-78, 1985-86, 1988-89

Challenge Cup Winners:

1921, 1971

Lancashire Cup Winners:

1952, 1955, 1970, 1981
 (runners-up 1909, 1920, 1922, 1949,
 1951, 1963, 1969)

BBC2 Floodlit Trophy Winners:

1969, 1972 (runners-up 1968, 1976)

South West Lancashire & Border

Towns Cup Winners: 1901

ITA TV Trophy runners-up 1955

Summer era (1996 to date)

Promotion to Super League:

2004, 2016

League Leaders:

Premiership 2001,
 National League One 2004,
 Championship 2014, 2015, 2016

Grand Final Winners:

National League One 2004,
 Championship 2014

(runners-up: Premiership 2000, 2002,
 National League One 2003)

National league Cup Winners:

2004, 2006, 2011, 2013

(runners-up 2003)

Trans-Pennine Cup Winners:

2001 (runners-up 2000)

CLUB RECORDS

Highest Score For:

92-2 v Keighley, 1986

Highest Score Against:

4-94 v Workington Town, 1995

Highest Home Attendance:

31,326 v St Helens, 1953

Highest Home Attendance at LSV:

10,556 v Batley Bulldogs, 2016

GAME RECORDS

Tries: 6 by Jack Wood in 1947

and Neil Turley in 2001

Goals: 15 by Mick Stacey in 1976

Points: 42 by Neil Turley in 2004

SEASONAL RECORDS

Tries: 55 by Neil Turley in 2001

Goals: 187 by Neil Turley in 2004

Points: 468 by Neil Turley in 2004

CAREER RECORDS

Appearances: 503 by Albert Worrall

Tries: 189 by Mick Martyn

Goals: 1043 by Jimmy Ledgard

Points: 2492 by John Woods

LEYTHERS

FROM THE TOP CONTINUED

Aaron is helping run the Premier Club this year which got off to a great start as Jason Robinson OBE was one of our honoured guests at the Wigan game alongside Des Drummond and Andy Gregory.

At each home game this season the past players will be represented with a table in Premier Club, further strengthening the bond between the two organisations.

LISA have again been awarded a squad number, number 99 as recognition of their continued fantastic support and Christine and Johnny at SuperLeigh remain an essential part of the club's fundraising efforts and we trust our supporters will continue to give both organisations their full support.

Off the field, Mark Taylor's appointment has greatly strengthened the club's digital and media communications and Mark has also been working alongside Darren on social media and Matty, Ryan, Joe and Oliver from LCTV to produce some fantastic features over the off season. If you haven't already joined up, please consider a subscription to LCTV as it is a great facility for club supporters to keep up to date with events, interviews and match highlights etc. The social media game coverage is really excellent and Darren, for instance, interviewed Danny Addy immediately after the Dewsbury game on Facebook live. Judging from the reaction of supporters the new features have been really popular.

Before the Wigan game we remembered the past players, officials and supporters of both clubs who had sadly passed away during the off season.

We remembered the great Stan Owen, second only to Albert Worrall in the club's all-time appearance list and Bill Johnson, a highly popular former Colts coach and kitman and dad to Leigh players Phil and Kevin. We were glad that relatives were able to attend the game as our guests together with the families of Kath Russell and Jack Davies, two long-standing, much-loved supporters and volunteers who will be

missed by so many friends as the season starts.

We also lost Alan Platt, a life member, lifelong Leigh Centurions supporter and sponsor and former director who among other things was involved in the formation and running of the Touchdown Club. Alan's funeral was attended by players, staff and directors with the wake at LSV and we look forward to hosting his family at this afternoon's game as we remember a truly passionate Leigh supporter and a lovely, warm-hearted and generous man with a minute's applause pre-match.

The great Des Drummond has enjoyed coming to our games recently and was guest of honour on the club's presentation night when Luke Douglas walked off with so many awards before returning to Australia. Doesn't that seem a long time ago? Des came along to Dewsbury last Friday and thoroughly enjoyed the match and his love of the club shines through. It gave the Leigh fans present that evening a great boost to see Des there supporting the boys and as ever he was in huge demand for photos and selfies.

This afternoon we may well be unveiling Heritage Number 1500, the 1500th player to play for the club since the first Northern Union game on 7 September 1895 against Leeds.

Tom Coop, a former England rugby union international was #1, the great Tommy Sale #460, Brian Case #1000 thirty years ago. Adam Higson was #1310 when he made his debut in 2008 so nearly 200 players have made their first appearances for Leigh in the past 12 years. We had seven players on debut at Dewsbury and it was great to welcome them to the club, with more to follow.

The following of Leigh fans across the Pennines on a cold Friday evening was appreciated by all the players and staff and certainly the officials of Dewsbury, that most welcoming of clubs. We sold 400 advance tickets with several hundred more sold on the night, great support on the last Friday of January.

Next week we entertain York City Knights and I'm sure my column will give me the opportunity to make up for all the things

I've failed to mention in this one. There's been so much going on, it's been hard to include it all.

Mark Aston is one of my oldest friends in the game and we welcome his team to LSV today. We've had great and friendly rivalry in the past and long may that continue. Belated congratulations, too, to Mark on his achievement in the Eagles lifting the inaugural AB Sundecks 1895 Cup at Wembley Stadium last season, a team that included Nathan Mason and Ben Hellewell.

We welcome all our supporters back to LSV for another exciting season, welcome old and new sponsors and thank all our staff and volunteers for the efforts they make on behalf of the club. We wish the coaching staff and players every success and welcome the new players to Leigh Centurions. We're also extremely pleased to play in such a fantastic facility and thank Simon Toon and his staff at LSV for their professionalism and dedication in ensuring that the stadium ranks as one of the best in the game.

We've got RugbyAM along today filming behind the scenes action you'll be able to watch next week. Alex Simmons and his team do a fantastic job promoting Rugby League, especially at Championship, League one and grassroots level and we thank them for the great work they do on behalf of the greatest game.

Finally, I'd like to join everyone at the club in wishing Martyn Ridyard every success in his testimonial year which kicked-off with a well-attended match at Leigh Miners.

Ridy has been a wonderful servant to the club and a credit to himself and his family, one of only three players to score over 2,000 points for Leigh. I'm sure he'll have many more great moments in the cherry and white before he hangs up his boots and he will go down as one of the finest Leigh born players of all time.

On behalf of Derek and my colleagues the rest of the board thanks for your continuing support and here's to an enjoyable and successful season.

Yours in sport
Mike Latham, Chairman

CONTACT DETAILS

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Commercial Sales: 01942 487898

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OBITUARY

BILLY JOHNSON



Everyone at Leigh Centurions was saddened to hear of the passing of our former kitman and Leigh Colts coach, William (Billy) Johnson on December 27, 2019 at the age of 86. We would like to pass on our sincere condolences to his family at this sad time.

A very popular man who was well known in the town through his involvement in rugby league and football, Billy began his long association with the club in the 1980s when he coached the club's Colts team. Two of his children – Phil and Kevin – went on to sign professional forms for Leigh.

Phil earned #HN928 and made

160 appearances for the club, scoring 375 points and also being rewarded with a Testimonial while Kevin #HN1023 made his Leigh senior debut in 1990, playing five times.

Kevin said the family had been comforted by the huge number of messages of sympathy they'd received. He said: "The number of people to send their condolences and messages of support have shown the family that not only was my dad well known but well liked."

"It has been a great comfort to us all to know that my dad was a man who was so popular and well respected."

Billy was born in Rotherham but his family moved back to Leigh when he was only six months old. He lived in Mitchell Street and later Wilkinson Street before moving to the long-time family home on Ledbury Street. His neighbours included the Rowley, Bilsbury, Baldwin and Martyn families, so as you can imagine, rugby league was a common topic of conversation.

As a young man, Billy worked in the pits but had a number of jobs including a crane and HGV driver, window cleaner and bus

driver. He and his wife Margaret had five children – Kathleen, Barbara, Peter, Phil and Kevin but despite a busy family life was able to play football to a good standard.

Billy coached the Leigh Colts team during the mid-1980s and actually selected son Kevin to play when he was only 14 years of age. Billy then became the club's kitman at a time when the club enjoyed notable successes such as the Second Division Championship in 1986 and the club's return to the top flight in 1992.

On his retirement, Billy enjoyed playing a number of sports especially golf and crown green bowling. His enthusiasm for bowling was shared by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

++ The Club would also like to remember devoted Leigh fan Kath Russell, long-time Lottery agent and Leigh supporter Jack Davies who sadly passed away during the close season.

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COACH'S COLUMN

HEAD COACH JOHN DUFFY



What do you think you have learned about your squad from pre-season?

I think the biggest thing we as a coaching team have learnt is how together the players are as a group and how much they actually want to succeed this season. We have got to get them to think like that every week. The players have been great because it's been a really tough off season – one of the toughest I've been through as a coach and that's how it needed to be if we want to make a good go of it this season. They are a great set of people who are going for one common goal which is trying to get some

success at the club and that's from me downwards.

Every one of the players has really pushed their bodies – including the part-time players. They have all bettered themselves on last season. But as we all know, when games start it's a totally different ballgame. We have put ourselves in the best frame of mind we possibly can.

The overnight camp at the Anderton Centre really stands out for me from pre-season, what did that tell you about the players?

I learned a lot about them as individuals and also how close they have become as a team. It was a great exercise and I'd definitely do it again. You see it in the way the players push each other at training. If they put balls down they try to be positive with each other but they're also on at each other all the time.

I don't really have to say that much because a player would have already picked them up on it. That's the most pleasing thing. I give them the freedom to do what they feel they need to do rather than me telling them 'this is

right' or 'this is wrong'.

Last year we had to be on the players all the time but this group are a different kettle of fish. The way they do things when they're not here is a big thing as well. In the Championship, you can't really know or see where that player is during the day but now we have better players and personnel so we know they're doing the right things away from here because they're bettering themselves in training. Most of the lads in our squad have won things and they know what it takes to win things and be successful.

We have had to turn a few players around which they've all bought into. Like, you'll see that straightaway with Ben Reynolds, how much body fat he has lost. You can see with our shifts last week at Dewsbury how quick we are going into that line.

The first half was a bit of a slog at Dewsbury but once you hit your stride in the second half, you really powered home.

No disrespect to Dewsbury who I think are a gritty, well-led team but I think we were a bit too good for them in the



JOHN DUFFY interviewed in front of a full room



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LEYTHERS



JAY DUFFY, JOHN DUFFY and PAUL ANDERSON

end. But it was tough - I didn't know how bad the wind was till I went down to the touchline. It was blowing a gale into our faces in that first half and we didn't help ourselves with silly errors and penalties.

Once we had a chat at half-time and addressed a few things, the players really nailed it in the second half. Our goalline defence was superb and we didn't want it to break - you could hear the boys speaking all through the game about how they didn't want to concede.

To have three back-to-back sets on our line and then see Liam Hood, who had been in the middle of all that make a

break for Danny Addy - another middle who had done 80 minutes and then have Ben Reynolds in support to score - showed just where we want to be.

It was pleasing but we know it's only Round 1 so that's already been put to bed and all our focus is on Sheffield.

You had to deal with adversity too with Jarrod Sammut and Mark loane withdrawing from the squad through illness, what happened there?

I had a bit of it as well and some of the other staff had it as well as some players. What it showed was that we have got to be a bit smarter in situations like that and tell players to stay at home because they've got to put the team first. It shocked us how bad they were - Mark (loane) was in A+E with it. It's tough when it comes because we're always together and it spreads like wild fire. We had to try and stop it as soon as we could by sending the lads home. It was a bit of adversity but we dealt with it well.

All through the preseason you've made reference to what a big deal it is to play at home and how special it can be. Finally, we are at home, how important is that?

We didn't give the debut shirts out at Dewsbury because we wanted to do it at a home game. So we will do it on Saturday. It's always a massive

occasion.

The coaching staff keep telling the players all the time what it's like to play at home and we've all felt that as well because we've played for Leigh whether it was here or at Hilton Park. I hope the players will help to fire up that North Stand all game.

Sheffield Eagles are a team Leigh have had some real battles with in recent years, are you expecting more of the same on Saturday?

We should have got beaten by Sheffield here last year - Anthony Thackeray absolutely ruined us. We have got to make sure our details are spot on. Sheffield have signed really well and I think they've looked a lot more aggressive in their games against Doncaster and Halifax. I thought they were great at Halifax and should have won really.

Sheffield are well coached - I'm good friends with Mark Aston - and I think they will go really well this season. We have got to make sure we nail the tip sheet and get everything in place we need to to get something out of the game.

On Monday all the Leigh players attended the funeral of Alan Platt. I know you thought a lot of him...

I was good friends with Alan Platt having met him for the first time when I played. Then when I got the coaching job last year, I went to see him and spent some time in the office with him and his lads and we reconnected. It saddened me so much when he died.

He was a great bloke who I liked because he was no-nonsense; he will be sadly missed. I wanted all the lads to be there for his funeral. Watching Leigh gave Alan and his lads a lot of satisfaction, whether it was at the Sports Village or Hilton Park. It was important to me that we did him proud.

Howe Bridge Crematorium was packed on Monday and we couldn't get in. He was a great supporter and great sponsor of this club.

John Duffy was being interviewed by Mark Taylor



JOHN DUFFY outlines his plans for 2020

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LEYTHERS

TODAY'S VISITORS: SHEFFIELD EAGLES

LCTV's Mark Taylor caught up with Sheffield Eagles coach Mark Aston at the RFL Season Launch in Huddersfield to get his thoughts on the 2020 campaign...

Sheffield are the first team to come to the Leigh Sports Village this season - a team that always give Leigh a tough game. How do you feel you are progressing...

I hope it's a tough game - I would have liked it to have been a little bit later in the season because we're not always firing at the beginning of the season. We are looking forward to coming to the Sports Village - it's a great facility and a pitch we really enjoy playing on. We had three really good games against Leigh last year which could have gone either way.

I remember being in control in that game at the LSV then Leigh came back and got us in the last couple of minutes. It's a tough place to go and Leigh have recruited really well and

it will be a good benchmark for us.

Leigh have Nathan Mason and Ben Hellewell on board this season - two players you had at various points on dual registration from London. What can you tell us about them?

Most importantly they are both good blokes and were integral to us when they came to us from London. They both played in the 1895 AB Sundecks Cup Final against Widnes with Hellewell playing at centre against Anthony Gelling and was outstanding. Nathan's a big boy who will get you on the front foot and will take a lot of handling. They will fit in really easily and John Duffy will enjoy having them and I'm sure the fans will as well.

Are you happy with your team's preparations for the new season?

We are probably a bit behind really and have a couple of injuries which mean we are without some influential players. We are changing a lot of things at the Club; we have brought in seven or eight players

and we're going to have a different brand of football. It's going to take some getting used to but the players have been great. For us, it's about the team coming together, getting to know each other and having a bit of pride in what we're about. Last year we brought the culture we're looking for back into the club.

A lot of people are talking about London as being pre-season favourites for the competition this year and also Toulouse. Who do you see as the main contenders?

Certainly those two will be up there. I think Leigh will, Featherstone, Halifax, Bradford ... there are plenty of teams that are going to be up there. It's going to be a great competition, there's no doubt about that. Everyone can get there. 2020 is going to be big for us - we've got a new logo and we've rebranded and the new stadium will be complete by the end of the year. Plus there's a World Cup game in Sheffield in 2021 so there are a lot of things happening and we need to get on the back of that.



MARK ASTON chats to Mark Taylor

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LEIGH CENTURIONS DIRECTOR STEVE HILL IS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HILLTOP PRODUCTS LIMITED, THE MAIN SHIRT SPONSOR FOR THE SECOND SEASON RUNNING. STEVE EXPLAINS JUST WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MAIN SPONSOR FOR HIS HOME TOWN CLUB AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT IT'S HAD ON HIS BUSINESS AND FAMILY.



HILLTOP PRODUCTS
staff with the players in their home shirts

I was asked by our Chairman, fellow director and good friend of mine Mike Latham to pen a few words on what it really means to be a Leigh Centurions shirt sponsor. I thought initially, no problem that's pretty straightforward.

However, when I sat back to think about it, it actually encapsulates many different aspects and conjures up a mixture of emotions. Whilst I've been fortunate to travel extensively, I am Leigh born and bred and only ever lived in Leigh, indeed earlier in life I lived much of my youth and early adulthood literally a "goal kick" away from the old Hilton Park ground.

Working and socialising locally I have come to learn and fully understand just how important the town's identity is to its people, in particular

our town's Rugby League club, Leigh Centurions.

So, when I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be in a position whereby our business could contribute and play a part, we didn't hesitate to play a role in that wonderful heritage.

That was now a number of years back. Initially we played a smaller but no less important role, this season will be our second successive season as the main shirt sponsor, posing that question: "What does that really mean to us?"

Taking the sentiment out of the question, whilst we have always done some local business due to the nature of our business it is more national and indeed now on an international basis. Our company, Hilltop Products therefore went a little under the radar locally so to

speak, we remained unknown.

However, being part of the Centurions' kit sponsorship has provided much more exposure, particularly locally that in turn has helped form more invaluable local relationships with customers and suppliers alike.

Our association has broadened our exposure locally and indeed nationally particularly in the North of England, where Rugby League is more prevalent. Speaking purely from a business or commercial point of view, that has been invaluable in raising our Company profile and outlining our products, services and our all-important company values.

When you then factor the sentiment in, this becomes a package that



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really is highly significant, both professionally and personally. To watch your own town team stride out onto the pitch with your company name and logo emblazoned on the front of the shirt really is a very proud moment indeed.

Myself, my family and many of our work colleagues likewise have made countless new friends and associates through our involvement with this great club.

One of the most satisfying aspects is an opportunity that was not previously always taken, one for all my family to share the same interest at the same time.

All the family sit around a table typically on a Sunday afternoon, we share a fabulous meal at the LSV and likewise all share the same passion for the club and the game of Rugby League. That one aspect

alone is very important, indeed personally to me it's priceless.

Along with all our fans and our supporters we have all eagerly awaited the start of the new season. Whilst, no doubt, this will present new challenges, not only for the

squad, coaches, the board and indeed for all involved with this wonderful club, the Famileigh will for sure continue to go from strength to strength, and we for one could not be prouder to continue and be associated with the same.



STEVE HILL (bottom right)
with the players and directors of the club



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Last Friday, lots of you got involved as we headed for our first game of the season at Dewsbury. Here are some of our favourites – spot anyone you know here?



MATCH REPORT

DEWSBURY RAMS 10 LEIGH CENTURIONS 36

By **MARK TAYLOR** • Photos by **WARREN TURLEY**

Leigh Centurions got their 2020 Betfred Championship season off to the perfect start with an impressive 36-10 win at Dewsbury.

Ben Reynolds scored a try and kicked six goals from as many attempts as Leigh shut out the home side in an excellent second half display.

Leigh Head Coach John Duffy was delighted with the way his side dominated the game after the break. He said: "It was a really, really tough game. Dewsbury stuck to their game plan and I thought our discipline was poor in the first half.

"We asked for more discipline in the second half and we got that. When we did get good ball I thought we looked really, really classy.

"It was a tough, gritty performance and the second half from us was really professional."

Leigh were without close season signings Jarrod Sammut and Mark Ioane who were suffering with with illness. But there were debuts for Ben Hellewell, Nick Glohe, Danny Addy, Matty Wildie, Alex Gerrard and Callum Field. Cameron Scott, who is with Leigh on season-long loan from Hull FC, also started on the wing.

Playing into a stiff wind, Leigh struggled to get going in the first half

and Dewsbury led in the eighth minute when Addy was penalised for obstruction and Paul Sykes kicked the conversion.

Having been forced to defend for much of the opening quarter, Leigh made the most of a rare opportunity with a try in the 19th minute. Josh Woods barged his way through from close range and Reynolds added the conversion to make it 6-2 for the visitors.

Dewsbury replied with a try from Adam Ryder after some nice interplay on the right edge and Sykes added the goal superbly from the touchline. He also added a penalty seven minutes before half-time to give his side a 10-6 lead.

Moments before half-time, Leigh levelled things when Scott finished off a slick short side attack to score in the corner. Reynolds kicked the conversion off the touchline to make it 12-10 at the break.

The second half was completely dominated by Leigh as they added four converted tries without reply. Hellewell hit a nice line to barge over for his first try for the club in the 52nd minute before a nicely delayed pass from Gregg McNally created the opportunity for Iain Thornley to go over.

The try of the night arrived 10 minutes from the end when Liam Hood broke superbly through the

middle, handing onto to Addy who in turn fed Reynolds and he finished off the 60 metre move in style with a swandive over the tryline.

With time almost up, an angled kick to the corner from Sykes was picked up by Adam Higson on his own tryline and he set off on a length of the field sprint to the tryline.

Reynolds finished the evening with six goals from six, a fine return from the Leigh Joint Vice Captain.

Teams

Leigh: McNally, Scott, I Thornley, Sa'u, Higson, Reynolds, Woods, Mason, Hood, Spencer, Hellewell, Glohe, Addy. Subs: Wildie, Thompson, Gerrard, Field

Tries: Woods, Scott, Hellewell, I Thornley, Reynolds, Higson

Goals: Reynolds 6 (from 6 attempts)

Dewsbury: Martin, Gabriel, Ryder, Fleming, Oakes, Sykes, Finn, Scott, Speakman, Reilly, Esslemont, Johnson, Annakin. Subs: Day, Dixon, Nemes, Magrin

Try: Ryder

Goals: Sykes 3 (from 3 attempts)

Referee: Cameron Worsley

Attendance: 1723

ACTION PHOTOS

DEWSBURY RAMS 10
LEIGH CENTURIONS 36





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IMPROVING OUR GAME

DEREK BEAUMONT WRITES...



As we embark on a new season with some minor amendments to our rules, I thought I would share some ideas I would explore further to improve our game as a spectacle.

The NRL has always been viewed as the trend setter, the leader of the sport, perhaps as it's one of the biggest sports in such a big country and therefore generates much more income which in turn provides better salaries, attracting more athletes to that specific sport.

A rather significant change that they have made is to introduce the 20/40, a reverse of the 40/20. This is something I think can work along with some suggestions I will also make later.

I have in previous years somewhat naively been critical of referees'

performances. I have also since then highlighted the difficult position they find themselves in, with so many decisions to make instantly that can then be viewed critically under a microscope of slow motion.

Take, for example the Challenge Cup Final and Robert Hicks, a senior referee I hold in high regard. In the very early stages of the final he set his stall out that he wasn't to be going to the screen on every call and would make his mark on the game and how he was going to officiate it. His call at the pace of what he saw was the ball wasn't grounded and was dead and made that call with conviction, believing it to be right, when slow motion replays showed it to be incorrect.

It's an isolated incident but can have a big impact and I think referees find themselves in a position where they can't really win. If Robert goes to the screen so early and it is proved to be dead, by as clear as he had obviously believed, then some are critical, saying: 'Why do the refs always go to the screen? Why don't they just make the call?'

The big issue this creates, in my opinion, is that the amount of rules they have to judge on and the severity of the punishment for the calls they make can have too much impact on the result of a game, so when those calls are wrong, it can cause such big problems and frustration amongst spectators, which I believe is affecting the

number of people now watching our game.

When you look at football, for example, possession changes so quickly between teams that it isn't really that critical if a free kick isn't given that should have been or one is given that shouldn't have been, as the possession can quickly reverse. In reality, it's mainly just the severe decisions of a penalty or not that can have a significant impact whereas in Rugby League possession is absolutely vital.

Therefore, when a decision is made to give a penalty, say for example for an incorrect play-the-ball and this gives possession to the other team, say on play one, it is a massive advantage, especially when the other team can kick many metres out of you to touch. If that call is wrong, then it becomes a serious blunder that otherwise wouldn't be as noticed or as much of an issue.

If say, for example, that play-the-ball was deemed incorrect so you had to retake it, but it was now classed as 'play two' then there is a disadvantage to trying to play-the-ball incorrectly because you lose a tackle, but it doesn't pass possession and if the call is incorrect, it's not as controversial. Anyway, more on that thought process shortly.

So back to the 20/40 rule change over in Australia. I think this is a great concept and is one I would head at the top of the other changes I am

DEREK BEAUMONT CONTINUED

going to suggest. Here's why. The game is becoming very tight and robotic as the coaches implement defensive structures and strategies that are hard to break down. Very rarely these days, particularly in Super League, do you see tries from breaks inside a team's own 20 metre area. I have often said the only way a team really gets to a good ball set from a yardage set is by being piggy backed up field of the back of a penalty or by kicking a 40/20.

In the scenario of a 20/40, defences that are ramping up to contain a team in a yardage set would need to consider dropping both wingers back to protect the kick, which creates more space in the defensive line, or one winger back and move the fullback across, which also creates more space in the defensive line, albeit not quite as much, but then presents space behind the line centre field. This, I believe, will make for more attacking rugby, particularly coming out of yardage and using the kick itself when successful is another way a team can get out of a stranglehold, other than relying on a penalty.

As I stated earlier, Rugby League is about possession and, in particular, possession in territory. We often see people refer to the penalty count and assess whether a referee has been fair, based on the penalty count. In reality, the disparity in the penalty count has nothing to do with the referee in my opinion, despite them issuing them and it isn't something they should be judged on, or influenced by when making decisions or being aware of that total during a game.

They are there to officiate and if a team is giving away penalties then they have to award them. If one team makes no errors resulting in penalties and one makes 20 and we have a 20-nil penalty count it shouldn't matter one bit and certainly shouldn't reflect on the referee. We all see situations which reinforce my previous comments where penalties are given to a team in good ball on, say, play one, maybe after an error by the opposition, or even after being awarded a penalty. Although it's a penalty, unless taking two points it doesn't really provide much of an advantage. However, the same penalty awarded on play five provides a significant advantage. This is where I think we can change the punishment or disadvantage from various errors and keep the penalties where a team can kick metres out of you and get a full set or kick to goal for two points restricted for the serious foul play.

Therefore, my second suggested change would be the knock-on. When Rugby League was formed in its own right the set of six was eventually implemented, whereby you then turn over possession to the opposition.

Previously, under the unlimited tackle rule, when you could go for long periods without the ball as you see in rugby union, it would have been important to change possession in such circumstances, but I question why that should be the case under our set of six code.

Possession is key, as we know, so the consequence of a knock-on is

significant, resulting in a scrum which nearly always results in possession to the other team. I believe this restricts players trying plays, particularly in certain areas of the field, where the consequences of losing possession are greater. What if it was the case that a knock-on meant you were classed as held, where you recover the ball? You haven't gained an advantage from dropping the ball or knocking it on from trying a play. If the other side pounces on the loose ball before you then they gain possession, but if you recover it, you keep it and move up the tackle count. This can also be implemented in the rucks, which again can assist referees. If they believe a knock-on has taken place in a ruck, where the player is tackled rather than a rip, then they add a tackle to the count on top of the tackle made so there's a disadvantage to the knock-on or loose carry. The rip, however, is a blatant act to gain an advantage so the penalty should be the punishment. This would also remain the case for a high tackle, dangerous tackle or contact to the head.

My third suggestion would be the incorrect play-the-ball. This is something being clamped down on this season and has already started to cause controversy due to its interpretation by different referees and I believe the slight advantage the offence can give you is severely outweighed by the punishment.

In our game against Dewsbury we

I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF OUR PLAYERS MAKE THE MISTAKES THEY DO IN A GAME ON PURPOSE.

saw this, I think, on four occasions. One was when we were coming off our own line, I think ten metres out on play two, seeing us surrender the ball to the other team. Others involved players still trying to clear the tackle, or arguably not as the case may be.

The advantage to an incorrect play-the-ball is a faster ruck against a retreating defensive line. If this results in that play having been a tackle and play it again then the defence is certainly set and there's a clear disadvantage to the attempt, as you have lost a tackle and lost the momentum you would have gained from a correct play, as the play has been stopped. Again, markers interfering or holding down is foul play and slowing down the game so a penalty should be the outcome making for attacking rugby to create a better spectacle.

My fourth and final suggestion is my biggest bugbear: the offside rule at the play-the-ball. I don't believe there is a game gone by where you can pause the play on screen and see players offside at least once where it is not penalised.

Now that isn't a criticism of the referee, they are watching the ruck, the markers, the correct play-the-ball, a clean pick-up and largely depend on the touch-judges. Now the players can only move when the ball is played, therefore the touch-judges also need to be looking at the ruck, to then look back and at the pace of the game it's often missed or not known for sure.

My issue here is it places a lot of emphasis on a referee and the possibility of them being criticised

for influencing a game. As we said earlier, if a team can only get out of yardage off a piggyback from a penalty then giving the penalty can be extremely influential and, as previously stated, more so if that is given on play five. My point is that, in my opinion, on most plays you could call offside. It's a case of when it's seen or not and this causes the problem. So, what's the benefit of being offside when the ball is played? Obviously, you can get to your opponent quicker and tackle them.

Does that cause them that big of a disadvantage that you were, let's say, two yards offside and closer to them that they should be able to kick, say 20 or 30 metres out of your territory and then start over with six tackles? I don't believe it does. In my opinion, it should simply count as a zero tackle. Therefore, there is no benefit and indeed a loss to being offside as you have lost some metres and the tackle count is the same. If you continually did it, the team would still be on 'play one' and on your line, but it would take maybe 20 incorrect calls from a referee to change from yardage to good ball, rather than one, so a mistake by a referee, if one were made, would have little impact on the overall outcome of the game.

Clearly, there has to be a balance on the level of punishment to the gain that can be achieved by foul play to prevent it from happening. I believe my suggestions meet that but am aware others will think I am barking mad, then there are those who will think they are good ideas really but will disagree because they were written by me 🙄. To cap it, you would still apply a team warning to the offences, if consistent, as you

would if they were deemed penalties. Therefore, in summary they are penalties with a different outcome of zero tackle plus one tackle but a combination of those in succession lead to a team warning and the consequences associated to that as normal.

I have touched on the above previously with Ralph at the RFL and with respected journalist Martyn Sadler whom I think covered some of it in his League Express publication but I was compelled to write about it again in more depth at the start of the season, particularly having watched my first ever game of American Football in the Super Bowl after being urged to watch it with my son. Crazy game in many ways and took two hours to watch it, using fast forward which is another story, but what was interesting was you got your time with the ball, irrespective of penalties moving you five metres forward or five metres back, you had your four downs.

I think Rugby League would be a better sport to watch with less swapping of the possession for judgements open to interpretation by referees in a no-win position, with far too many decisions to make on the spur of the moment.

I don't believe any of them get anything wrong on purpose, just like I don't believe any of our players make the mistakes they do in a game on purpose. The latter aren't highlighted as much as those by referees, but I do believe we can help them by making the consequences of the decisions have less impact on the overall outcome of a game.

**Yours in sport
Derek Beaumont**

POSSESSION IS KEY, AS WE KNOW, SO THE CONSEQUENCE OF A KNOCK-ON IS SIGNIFICANT.

ACTION PHOTOS

DEWSBURY RAMS 10 LEIGH CENTURIONS 36





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LEYTHERS

LEIGH CENTURIONS TEAM UP WITH OUR PASS

Leigh Centurions have joined forces with **Our Pass** to offer free tickets for selected home games in 2020, starting with today's clash with Sheffield Eagles.

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Mayor of Greater Manchester and keen Leigh Centurions fan Andy Burnham launched the scheme last year and the Club have been behind him all the way.

Leigh Centurions Director Steve Hill is a big advocate of the idea and was delighted the Club was able to link up with Our Pass. He said: "Having met with

Andy again at a home game last season, it was a no-brainer for me and our board thought unanimously the same.

"We were all delighted to support this excellent new initiative. We are a community orientated club and genuinely believe this is an opportunity for every 16-18 year old throughout the entire Greater Manchester region to tap into exclusive cultural, leisure and sport opportunities bringing down the previous barrier of costs normally associated with the same.

"Any such opportunity to explore, coupled with the ability to work and learn is vital for this generation."

Other sporting organisations in the area including Manchester City, Manchester United and Lancashire Cricket Club are backing the initiative along with some of the great institutions of our area such as the Halle Orchestra and the Royal Exchange Theatre.

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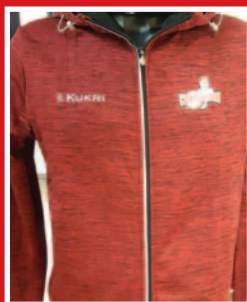
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CLASSIC SHIRTS

By **MARK TAYLOR**



Kit nerds won't need telling that the 1990s are back in fashion.

The football World Cup of 2018 saw several football teams take inspiration from some of the classic shirts of the decade which gave us Britpop, summer

rugby league and The Spice Girls. Bold colours and sublimated prints were back and nothing was off limits.

Rugby league has also shown it's not immune to a blast of nostalgia. Wigan's kit this year harks back to the Puma design worn by Martin Offiah et al and Warrington's shirts last year had a distinctly 90s feel.

Leigh have (so far) resisted the urge to delve into the archives for kit inspiration and some fans might be quite relieved about that. In 1993 a radical paint splash design by Bukta turned a few heads but the one we're looking at this issue continues to spark debate to this day. It's the diamonds kit!

The shirt – a mass of red, white and blue diamonds – may look like something from a circus but it was Leigh's away kit in 1997. Manufactured by Mizuno, the shirt was sponsored by Asda and worn with distinction by the likes of Stuart Donlan, Tim Street and Andy Pucill.

Sales wise, the shirts struggled to get close to those of the home shirt which in comparison was a very traditional affair but it has since taken on a life of its own. There are very few of these shirts 'in the wild' and on the rare occasion they crop up on eBay spark a feeding frenzy, regularly fetching decent money. Diamonds really are forever it seems.



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LCTV UPDATE

GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE AND WELCOME TO THE FIRST HOME GAME OF WHAT SHOULD BE A FASCINATING AND EXCITING 2020 SEASON BOTH ON THE FIELD AND FOR US HERE AT LCTV.



RYAN TAYLOR
LCTV

For those of you that don't know what LCTV is, it is the club's online video subscription service where there is a wide range of exciting Leigh content for you to access. We feature full match commentary on our Spreaker online radio station which you can listen too for every home and away game. Plus there are also full post-match interviews with John Duffy and selected players.

Through the season we will have exclusive content on site. For example, earlier this year we revealed the new Club and Vice Captains on LCTV so subscribers knew before everyone else.

For those of you who haven't subscribed and are wondering how much it costs, it's £5.99 per month or £60 for a year.

Another exciting thing to happen this year is the partnership between LCTV and Daniel Dobranski at Not Just Travel. It is pleasing to see our hard work be acknowledged and we are looking forward to working with Daniel and creating some brilliant content together over the course of the season.

This article will be a regular throughout the season and we will be reviewing all kinds of things such as favourite away ground, best away food, atmosphere and all kind of discussions that you can get involved with. I will be more than happy to listen to anyone's suggestions on content to include not just with the programme but LCTV as you supporters are key for the growth of the channel.

On the pitch, our new look team

had a hard fought win last Friday at Dewsbury and it was a great second half from the boys after a very tough and physical first half. The Tetley's Stadium isn't an easy place to go to - especially on a Friday night and the fact there were so many candidates for Man of the Match spoke volumes.

Looking ahead to the game, it should be a tough test as Mark Aston and his Sheffield Eagles side had an outstanding season last year. We all remember them pushing the lads close here at the LSV last year and I am sure we can all remember Liam Hood's winning try which had me and Joe Wood celebrating as loud as the North Stand in the commentary box. Sheffield also had a tough round one game pushing Halifax close and only just losing with a last minute try to make it 18-17 at the Shay, another very difficult place to go.

I hope you all enjoy the game and the season ahead and I look forward to hearing from you guys!

All the best

Ryan Taylor
LCTV

LEIGH COMMUNITY TRUST

LEIGH COMMUNITY TRUST TACKLE UNEMPLOYMENT

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

On Thursday LCT welcomed local job seekers to the LSV Stadium to take part in a 1-day training programme Mentoring Circles, in partnership with DWP (Department for Work and Pensions).

Ex-Centurions Mick Nanyan and Michael Ostick delivered the programme to 20 local job seekers. The Mentoring Circles programme provides support to job seekers on how to succeed in life and be better prepared for their careers. Using their peer's experience, mentees discussed and developed their

communication skills and confidence regarding the process of finding employment. We discussed the potential barriers that people find when trying to gain employment and then the group tried to find a way past the barriers.

Participants were keen to get as much information regarding their CV's, applying for jobs but mostly the art of interviewing. As part of the programme, they took part in several different role plays, being asked likely interview questions with a few curve balls thrown in there too e.g. "If you were an animal, what animal would you be

and why?" This helps them think outside the box and helped them to relax and makes them feel comfortable in the interview setting.

The encouragement throughout the group was fantastic and there was a clear want to help people who are in the same situation as themselves find some confidence in the process of finding employment.

After we had finished the session, we gave the participants a tour of the stadium and took them up the executive boxes and had a picture taken.

Good luck to all who attend the Mentoring Circles session for the future.



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LEIGH SQUAD AND SPONSORS 2020



BEN REYNOLDS

Date of Birth: 15 January 1994
Position: Halfback
Signed from: Wakefield Trinity
Other former club (s): Castleford Tigers, York City Knights (dual reg), Leigh Centurions, Doncaster (loan), Dewsbury Rams (loan), Featherstone Rovers (loan)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1398
Year of senior debut: 2014
Career record to start of 2020: 117 games, 40 tries, 296 goals, 1 dropgoal, 753pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 78 games, 29 tries, 205 goals, 1 dropgoal, 527pts
Representative honours: None
Miscellaneous: Ben was joint Championship One Young Player of the Year in 2014 alongside York team-mate James Saltontall
Sponsored by: Struktura Engineering Services Ltd

SQUAD NUMBER
6



GREGG MCNALLY

Date of Birth: 2 Jan 1991
Position: Fullback
Signed from: Bradford Bulls
Other former club (s): Whitehaven, Huddersfield Giants, Leigh Centurions, Oldham (loan), Barrow Raiders (loan)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1350
Year of senior debut: 2008
Career record to start of 2020: 254 games, 165 tries, 169 goals, 1 dropgoal, 999pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 172 games, 111 tries, 20 goals, 484pts
Representative honours: Ireland 12 games, 6 tries, 9 goals, 42pts; England Academy
Miscellaneous: Gregg scored the last try at Hilton Park in 2008. Unfortunately it was for Whitehaven.
Sponsored by: My Tech Repairs Limited

SQUAD NUMBER
1



SAM BROOKS

Date of Birth: 29 September 1993
Position: Forward
Signed from: Featherstone Rovers
Other former club (s): Wigan St Patrick's, Wigan Academy, Halifax, Rochdale Hornets, Whitehaven, Widnes, Bradford
Centurions Heritage Number: 1474
Year of senior debut: 2014
Career record to start of 2020: 117 games, 10 tries, 40pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 23 games, 4 tries, 16pts
Representative honours: Scotland 4 games
Miscellaneous: His last game for Featherstone was against Leigh in the 2018 Championship Shield Final
Sponsored by: Pro Build Plumbing & Heating Ltd

SQUAD NUMBER
16



MARTYN RIDYARD

Date of Birth: 25 July 1986
Position: Standoff
Signed from: Featherstone Rovers
Other former club (s): Leigh Miners, Leigh Centurions, Huddersfield Giants (loan)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1314
Year of senior debut: 2009
Career record to start of 2020: 277 games, 89 tries, 923 goals, 12 dropgoals, 2214pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 250 games, 80 tries, 838 goals, 12 dropgoals, 2008pts
Representative honours: Great Britain Community Lions
Miscellaneous: Martyn made his Leigh debut in the first competitive game at LSV against London Skolars and is now the Club's third-highest point-scorer
Sponsored by: RM Courier Services Ltd

SQUAD NUMBER
19



BRAD HOLROYD

Date of Birth: 15 Apr 2000
Position: Winger/ fullback
Signed from: Leigh East
Other former club (s): Crossfields
Centurions Heritage Number: 1488
Year of senior debut: 2019
Career record to start of 2020: 1 game, 1 try, 4pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 1 game, 1 try, 4pts
Representative honours: England Lions U19s, Lancashire U19s
Miscellaneous: Brad became the first Leigh player born in the year 2000 to make his first-team debut when he played against Workington Town in 2019
Sponsored by: Hilltop Products Ltd

SQUAD NUMBER
24



TOM SPENCER

Date of Birth: 2 Jan 1991
Position: Forward
Signed from: London Broncos
Other former club (s): Wigan St Patrick's, Wigan Warriors, South Wales (loan), Leigh Centurions
Centurions Heritage Number: 1357
Year of senior debut: 2012
Career record to start of 2020: 169 games, 20 tries, 80pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 119 games, 16 tries, 64pts
Representative honours: Tom's last game for London Broncos was in their MPG victory in Toronto that earned them a place in Super League
Miscellaneous: Tom's last game for London Broncos was in their MPG victory in Toronto that earned them a place in Super League
Sponsored by: Impact Insurance

SQUAD NUMBER
18

LEIGH SQUAD AND

SPONSORS 2020



ANDY THORNLEY

Date of Birth: 1 Mar 1989
Position: Forward
Signed from: Swinton Lions
Other former club (s): Ashton Bears, Wigan St Patrick's, Wigan Warriors, Salford (loan), Whitehaven, North Wales (loan)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1344
Year of senior debut: 2009
Career record to start of 2020: 246 games, 40 tries, 160pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 97 games, 18 tries, 72pts
Representative honours: None
Miscellaneous: After graduating through the Wigan system Andy made his senior debut on loan for Salford in 2009
Sponsored by: LISA

SQUAD NUMBER
12



LIAM HOOD

Date of Birth: 6 Jan 1992
Position: Hooker
Signed from: Widnes Vikings
Other former club (s): Leeds Rhinos, Dewsbury Rhinos (DR), Hunslet Hawks, Salford, Swinton, Leigh Centurions
Centurions Heritage Number: 1410
Year of senior debut: 2012
Career record to start of 2020: 180 games, 59 tries, 236pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 90 games, 32 tries, 128pts
Representative honours: Scotland 7 games, 1 try, 4pts
Miscellaneous: Liam starred in Hunslet's Championship One grand final victory over Oldham in 2014
Sponsored by: Caton Lloyd Audio Visual Solutions

SQUAD NUMBER
9



IAIN THORNLEY

Date of Birth: 11 September 1991
Position: Centre
Signed from: Catalans Dragons
Other former club (s): Ashton Bears, Wigan St Patrick's, Wigan Warriors, Salford, Hull KR, Sale RU, South Wales (loan), Leigh Centurions (loan), Workington Town (loan)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1384
Year of senior debut: 2012
Career record to start of 2020: 157 games, 71 tries, 284pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 33 games, 16 tries, 64pts
Miscellaneous: Iain made his Leigh debut against Halifax in 2013 on dual registration terms from Wigan. During that year he won a league and cup double with the Warriors.
Sponsored by: AB Sundecks

SQUAD NUMBER
3



LIAM FORSYTH

Date of Birth: 23 Mar 1996
Position: Centre/ wing
Signed from: Wigan Warriors
Other former club (s): Bold Miners, Thatch Heath, Swinton Lions (dual reg)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1489
Year of senior debut: 2017
Career record to start of 2020: 48 games, 25 tries, 100pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 10 games, 10 tries, 40pts
Representative honours: N/A
Miscellaneous: Liam previously played under dual coach John Duffy while on dual reg at Swinton in 2017
Sponsored by: Tommy Sale MBE Youth Development Programme

SQUAD NUMBER
20



JOSH WOODS

Date of Birth: 13 Dec 1997
Position: Halfback
Signed from: Wigan Warriors
Other former club (s): Leigh East, Swinton Lions (loan)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1472
Year of senior debut: 2017
Career record to start of 2020: 57 games, 7 tries, 17 goals, 7 dropgoals, 69pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 25 games, 3 tries, 10 goals, 1 dropgoal, 33pts
Representative honours: Josh is a Leigh Centurions season ticket holder
Miscellaneous: Josh is a Leigh Centurions season ticket holder
Sponsored by: DKC Consultants

SQUAD NUMBER
17



JORDAN THOMPSON

Date of Birth: 4 Sep 1991
Position: Forward
Signed from: Hull FC
Other former club (s): Normanton Knights, Castleford Tigers, York City Knights (loan), Hull FC, Leigh Centurions, Leeds Rhinos, Hull FC
Centurions Heritage Number: 1441
Year of senior debut: 2009
Career record to start of 2020: 243 games, 44 tries, 176pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 39 games, 4 tries, 16pts
Representative honours: N/A
Miscellaneous: Jordan played 26 consecutive games from debut during his first spell at Leigh before being transferred to Leeds in 2018
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SQUAD NUMBER
15

LEIGH SQUAD AND

SPONSORS 2020



RYAN INCE

Date of Birth: 16 Sep 1996
Position: Wing
Signed from: Widnes Vikings
Other former club (s): Widnes Moorfield; Whitehaven, Hunslet, North Wales Crusaders (all dual reg)
Centurions Heritage Number: Awaiting debut
Year of senior debut: 2016
Career record to start of 2020: 70 games, 37 tries, 148pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020:
Representative honours: N/A
Miscellaneous: Ryan scored 19 tries in 22 games for Widnes in 2019
Sponsored by: Boar's Head

SQUAD NUMBER
2



JARROD SAMMUT

Date of Birth: 15 Feb 1987
Position: Halfback
Signed from: Wigan Warriors
Other former club (s): Penrith Panthers, Crusaders, Bradford Bulls, Wakefield Trinity, Workington Town, London Broncos, Featherstone Rovers (dual reg)
Centurions Heritage Number: Awaiting debut
Year of senior debut: 2007
Career record to start of 2020: 247 games, 148 tries, 440 goals, 10 dropgoals, 1482pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020:
Representative honours: Malta
Miscellaneous: Jarrod has represented Malta at both Rugby League and rugby union
Sponsored by: Leigh Arms

SQUAD NUMBER
7



JUNIOR S'AU

Date of Birth: 18 Jul 1987
Position: Centre
Signed from: Salford Red Devils
Other former club (s): Logan Brothers (Queensland), Canberra Raiders, Newcastle Knights, Melbourne Storm, Wakefield Trinity (loan)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1490
Year of senior debut: 2009
Career record to start of 2020: 252 games, 96 tries, 384pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 6 games, 2 tries, 8pts
Representative honours: New Zealand 9 games, 8 tries, 32pts; Samoa 2 games
Miscellaneous: Junior scored two tries on his NRL debut, for Newcastle against Canterbury in 2008
Sponsored by: Impact Insurance

SQUAD NUMBER
4



NATHAN MASON

Date of Birth: 8 Sep 1993
Position: Forward
Signed from: London Broncos
Other former club (s): Huddersfield Giants, Oldham 9dual reg), Batley Bulldogs (dual reg), Leigh Centurions (loan), Sheffield Eagles (dual reg)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1443
Year of senior debut: 2013
Career record to start of 2020: 123 games, 17 tries, 68pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 22 games, 6 tries, 24pts
Representative honours:
Miscellaneous: Nathan played in Sheffield's AB Sundecks 1895 Cup-winning team against Widnes Vikings at Wembley in 2019
Sponsored by: Zaun Group

SQUAD NUMBER
8



ADAM HIGSON

Date of Birth: 19 Aug 1987
Position: Forward
Signed from: Toronto Wolfpack
Other former club (s): Leigh Miners, Leigh Centurions, Swinton Lions, Leigh Centurions
Centurions Heritage Number: 1310
Year of senior debut: 2008
Career record to start of 2020: 193 tries, 90 tries, 360pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020: 160 games, 68 tries, 272pts
Representative honours:
Miscellaneous: Adam is the only current Leigh Centurions player to have played for the club at Hilton Park
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SQUAD NUMBER
5



MARK IOANE

Date of Birth: 3 Dec 1990
Position: Forward
Signed from: London Broncos
Other former club (s): Gold Coast, St George Illawarra
Centurions Heritage Number: Awaiting debut
Year of senior debut: 2013
Career record to start of 2020: 130 games, 22 tries, 88 pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020:
Representative honours:
Miscellaneous: Mark made 101 appearances in four seasons with London Broncos after moving from the NRL
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SQUAD NUMBER
10

LEIGH SQUAD AND

SPONSORS 2020



BEN HELLEWELL

Date of Birth: 30 Jan 1992
Position: Forward/ centre
Signed from: London Broncos
Other former club (s): Bradford Bulls, Warrington Wolves, York (dual reg), Barrow (dual reg), Featherstone Rovers (dual reg), Dewsbury Rams (dual reg), Sheffield Eagles (dual reg)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1494
Year of senior debut: 2012
Career record to start of 2020: 183 games, 77 tries, 308pts
Representative honours: Scotland 20 games, 7 tries, 28pts
Miscellaneous: Ben played in Sheffield's AB Sundecks 1895 Cup Final victory over Widnes Vikings at Wembley in 2019
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SQUAD NUMBER
11



NICK GLOHE

Date of Birth: 16 Sep 1992
Position: Forward
Signed from: Lakes United (Newcastle, NSW)
Other former club (s):
Centurions Heritage Number: 1495
Year of senior debut: 2018 (for Scotland)
Career record to start of 2020: 5 games, 2 tries, 8pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020:
Representative honours: Scotland 5 games, 2 tries, 8pts
Miscellaneous: Nick, born in Paddington, NSW qualifies for Scotland through his Ayrshire-born mother
Sponsored by: Pam Ties

SQUAD NUMBER
21



DANNY ADDY

Date of Birth: 15 Jan 1991
Position: Forward
Signed from: Hull Kingston Rovers
Other former club (s): Bradford Bulls Academy, Bradford Bulls, Dewsbury Rams (loan)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1496
Year of senior debut: 2010
Career record to start of 2020: 219 games, 48 tries, 144 goals, 1 dropgoal, 481pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020:
Representative honours: Scotland 19 games, 6 tries, 5 goals, 34pts
Miscellaneous: Danny has been appointed Club Captain for 2020 with Liam Hood and Ben Reynolds as joint vice-captains
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SQUAD NUMBER
13



LEWIS BIENECK

Date of Birth: 11 Apr 1998
Position: Forward
Signed from: Hull FC (season long loan)
Other former club (s): London Broncos, Oxford (dual reg), Batley Bulldogs (dual reg)
Centurions Heritage Number: Awaiting debut
Year of senior debut: 2016
Career record to start of 2020: 52 games, 6 tries, 24pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020:
Representative honours: Ireland 3 games
Miscellaneous: Lewis made his Ireland debut in 2018 playing in all three games in the European Championship
Sponsored by: Pam Ties

SQUAD NUMBER
26



MATTY WILDIE

Date of Birth: 25 Oct 1990
Position: Hooker, halfback
Signed from: Bradford Bulls
Other former club (s): Wakefield Trinity, Batley Bulldogs (loan), Doncaster (loan), Dewsbury Rams, Featherstone Rovers
Centurions Heritage Number: 1497
Year of senior debut: 2010
Career record to start of 2020: 182 games, 40 tries, 1 goal, 162pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020:
Representative honours:
Miscellaneous: Matty played for Featherstone Rovers in their Championship Shield Final victory over Leigh Centurions in 2018
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SQUAD NUMBER
14



ALEX GERRARD

Date of Birth: 5 Nov 1991
Position: Forward
Signed from: Mackay Cutters (Queensland)
Other former club (s): Golborne Parkside, Hindley, Widnes Vikings, North Wales Crusaders (dual reg)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1498
Year of senior debut: 2010
Career record to start of 2020: 114 games, 8 tries, 32pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020:
Representative honours:
Miscellaneous: Alex played for Mackay Cutters in the Queensland Cup in 2019
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SQUAD NUMBER
27

LEIGH SQUAD AND SPONSORS 2020



CAMERON SCOTT

Date of Birth: 7 Oct 1999
Position: Threequarter
Signed from: Hull FC (season long loan)
Other former club (s): Dewsbury Rams (dual reg), Doncaster (dual reg), York (dual reg)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1493
Year of senior debut: 2018
Career record to start of 2020: 25 games, 9 tries, 36pts
Representative honours: England Academy
Miscellaneous: Cameron captained England academy in their 14-8 victory over the Australian Schoolboys at LSV in 2018
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SQUAD NUMBER
25



HEAD COACH

JOHN DUFFY
SPONSOR: ASCOT SERVICES



ASSISTANT COACH

PAUL ANDERSON
SPONSOR: GM PROJECTS



CRAIG MULLEN

Date of Birth: 15 Jan 1998
Position: Fullback/ threequarter
Signed from: Wigan Warriors (season long loan)
Other former club (s): Blackbrook, London Skolars (dual reg), Swinton Lions (dual reg)
Centurions Heritage Number: Awaiting debut
Year of senior debut: 2017
Career record to start of 2020: 27 games, 6 tries, 1 dropgoal, 25pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020:
Representative honours: England Youth, England Academy
Miscellaneous: Craig played for Wigan in their warm up game against South Sydney in Australia in 2018
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SQUAD NUMBER
22



ASSISTANT COACH

JAY DUFFY
SPONSOR:
LEIGH CENTURIONS FANS FORUM



STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH

MICKY HIGHAM
SPONSOR: JR'S TAXIS



CALLUM FIELD

Date of Birth: 7 Oct 1997
Position: Forward
Signed from: Wigan Warriors
Other former club (s): Swinton Lions (dual reg), London Skolars (dual reg), Dewsbury Rams (loan)
Centurions Heritage Number: 1499
Year of senior debut: 2017
Career record to start of 2020: 29 games, 1 try, 4pts
Leigh Centurions playing career to start of 2020:
Representative honours:
Miscellaneous: Callum made his senior debut for Swinton against London in April 2017 and two weeks later his Wigan debut against Swinton in the Challenge Cup
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SQUAD NUMBER
23



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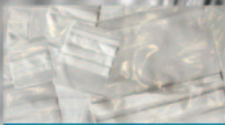
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LEIGH SQUAD STATS 2020

	Season 2020					Career for Leigh Centurions					Career in Rugby League				
	A	T	G	DG	P	A	T	G	DG	P	A	T	G	DG	P
Addy, Danny	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	220	48	144	1	481
Bienek, Lewis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	6	0	0	24
Brooks, Sam	0	0	0	0	0	23	4	0	0	16	117	10	0	0	40
Field, Callum	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	30	1	0	0	4
Forsyth, Liam	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	0	40	48	25	0	0	100
Gerrard, Alex	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	115	8	0	0	32
Glohe, Nick	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	8
Hellewell, Ben	1	1	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	4	184	78	0	0	312
Higson, Adam	1	1	0	0	4	161	69	0	0	276	194	91	0	0	364
Holroyd, Brad	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	4
Hood, Liam	1	0	0	0	0	91	32	0	0	128	181	59	0	0	236
Ince, Ryan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	37	0	0	148
Ioane, Mark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	22	0	0	88
Mason, Nathan	1	0	0	0	0	23	6	0	0	24	124	17	0	0	68
McNally, Gregg	1	0	0	0	0	173	111	20	0	484	255	165	169	1	999
Mullen, Craig	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	6	0	1	25
Reynolds, Ben	1	1	6	0	16	79	30	211	1	543	118	41	302	1	769
Ridyard, Martyn	0	0	0	0	0	250	80	838	12	2008	277	89	923	12	2214
Sammur, Jarrod	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	247	148	440	10	1482
Sa'u, Junior	1	0	0	0	0	7	2	0	0	8	253	96	0	0	384
Scott, Cameron	1	1	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	4	26	10	0	0	40
Spencer, Tom	1	0	0	0	0	120	16	0	0	64	170	20	0	0	80
Thompson, Jordan	1	0	0	0	0	40	4	0	0	16	244	44	0	0	176
Thornley, Andy	0	0	0	0	0	97	18	0	0	72	246	40	0	0	160
Thornley, Iain	1	1	0	0	4	34	17	0	0	68	158	72	0	0	288
Wildie, Matty	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	183	40	1	0	162
Woods, Josh	1	1	0	0	4	26	4	10	1	37	58	8	17	7	73
TOTAL	17	6	6	0	36										





SuperLeigh Welcome Back McLaughlin's Kitchens

SuperLeigh are proud to announce that McLaughlin's Kitchens will once again be teaming up with us in 2020 as our main sponsor.

SuperLeigh Manager Christine Brown commented "I'm delighted to have on board one of the town's most prominent businesses supporting us in our endeavours to continue to raise much-needed funds on behalf of Leigh Centurions. We take great pride in playing our part in the local area and are always keen to link up with local businesses in a variety of ways and thank McLaughlin's Kitchens for their support."

The team at McLaughlin's have over twenty years' worth of experience in kitchen design and installation and will do all they can to help you right the way through the process, tailoring the kitchen design to fit your precise needs with the assistance of their on-site craftsmen kitchen fitters, offering a fully bespoke service to make a kitchen that suits you. Visit the McLaughlin's Kitchens showroom on 49 Chapel Street, Leigh WN7 2PB or call 01942 679108 and support the businesses that support SuperLeigh and Leigh Centurions.

Pictured below are SuperLeigh Assistant Manager Johnny Simpkin and McLaughlin's Kitchens Company Director John McLaughlin.



SuperLeigh Business Members

The Centurion
Corlett Electrical
Tattoo Booth
Munchies
JR'S Taxis
First And Last
Dave Monks Joinery
Pennine Utilities
S&J Autos
Grimshaw Autos
ASK Platt Office Supplies
CDA Business Services
Euroscreen UK Ltd

Win £1,000 Every Week



For Just £1!!



@superleigh13 www.superleigh.com 01942 487892 @HiltonParkSociety



SuperLeigh Business Discount Scheme

Recently we have been working hard to improve our Business Discount Scheme. By being a member of SuperLeigh you can get discount at a variety of businesses both in and around the local area. SuperLeigh Manager Christine Brown said 'We are proud to be involved with these businesses that have graciously consented to give discount to our members and can't thank them enough. We are constantly on the lookout for additions to the scheme so if you are a business or individual trader who could offer some kind of incentive to our members please get in touch.' This can be done by calling Christine or Johnny on 01942 487892 or emailing info@superleigh.com. If you are a member and would like an up to date list of the businesses involved you can do the same or you can visit

www.superleigh.com/business-discount/scheme

SuperLeigh Discount Scheme



Win Win Win!!!

SuperLeigh are offering a new incentive to join us. Anyone signing up to a full years subscription (£52.00) through our Go Cardless option or via the SuperLeigh Office before the 13th March will be entitled to an adult ticket to.....

ANY Leigh Centurions fixture this season!!! This includes HOME/AWAY FIXTURES AND SUMMER BASH. (Subject to availability)

To join visit...

www.superleigh.com/join-now

Alternatively you can call Christine or Johnny on 01942 487892.

*Thank you
Christine & Johnny*

Win £1,000 Every Week



For Just £1!!



@superleigh13 www.superleigh.com 01942 487892 @HiltonParkSociety

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Grimshaw Autos
ASK Platt Office Supplies
CDA Business Services
Euroscreen UK Ltd



LEIGH CENTURIONS FIXTURES 2020

Round	Day	Month	Date	Venue	K.O.	Opponents	Result	Pos.	Att.
1	Fri	Jan	31	a	7.30pm	Dewsbury Rams	W36 10	1st	1723
2	Sat	Feb	8	h	3pm	Sheffield Eagles			
3	Sun	Feb	16	h	3pm	York City Knights			
CCC4	Sun	Feb	23	TBC	TBC	TBC			
4	Sun	Mar	1	a	3pm	Swinton Lions			
5	Sun	Mar	8	h	3pm	Halifax			
CCC5	Sun	Mar	15	TBC	TBC	TBC			
6	Sat	Mar	21	h	3pm	Oldham			
7	Sun	Mar	29	a	3pm	Featherstone Rovers			
8	Fri	Apr	10	h	3pm	Widnes Vikings			
9	Mon	Apr	13	a	3pm	Whitehaven			
10	Sun	Apr	19	a	3pm	London Broncos			
11	Sun	Apr	26	h	3pm	Toulouse Olympique			
1895C	Wed	Apr	29	TBC	TBC	TBC			
12	Sun	May	3	h	3pm	Batley Bulldogs			
13	Sun	May	17	a	6.15pm	Bradford Bulls			
14	Sun	May	24	h	3pm	Swinton Lions			
15	Sun	May	31	N	5.30pm	Widnes Vikings (Bloomfield Rd, Blackpool)			
16	Sun	Jun	14	a	3pm	Oldham			
17	Sun	Jun	21	h	3pm	London Broncos			
18	Sun	Jun	28	a	3pm	Sheffield Eagles			
19	Sat	Jul	4	a	3.30pm	Toulouse Olympique			
20	Sun	Jul	12	a	3pm	York City Knights			
21	Sun	Jul	26	h	3pm	Whitehaven			
22	Sun	Aug	2	h	3pm	Featherstone Rovers			
23	Sun	Aug	9	a	3pm	Halifax			
24	Sun	Aug	16	h	3pm	Bradford Bulls			
25	Sun	Aug	23	a	3pm	Widnes Vikings			
26	Sun	Aug	30	a	3pm	Batley Bulldogs			
27	Sun	Sep	6	h	3pm	Dewsbury Rams			
Totals							36 10		

LEIGH CENTURIONS LEGENDS BREAKFAST

Leigh Head Coach John Duffy invited a number of past players to a special 'Legends Breakfast' at the Holiday Inn on the eve of the new season.

Former players including Tony Barrow, Rod Tickle, Mick Stacey and Tommy Warburton enjoyed breakfast with the current squad and coaching staff, talking about their experiences playing for Leigh,

sharing funny stories and anecdotes and speaking warmly about what it meant to them to play for the Club.

The current squad received their shirts from the past players and it was a wonderful event, hosted by Leigh Centurions Chairman Mike Latham and it's an idea which John Duffy introduced before the start of last season.

